

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

January 29, 2013

A Season For Nonviolence

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in the midst of planning a Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. to address the issue of poverty. The planners of the campaign intended to request that President Lyndon Johnson and Congress take action to pass substantial anti-poverty legislation. Dr. King subsequently interrupted the planning of the campaign to join the nonviolent direct action protest by sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Sanitation Strike was an effort by sanitation workers to obtain a living wage and protest against poor treatment, discrimination, and dangerous working conditions. While in Memphis, Dr. King fell victim to gun violence and was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Mohandas K. Gandhi was an Indian leader who employed nonviolent direct action in pursuit of India's independence from British rule. Gandhi's use of nonviolence as tool for social change had a significant influence on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated, the victim of gun violence.

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The Season for Nonviolence marks the 64 calendar days between the anniversary of the assassination of Mohandas K. Gandhi on January 30 and that of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4. The purpose of the Season for Nonviolence is to teach that every person can move the world forward in peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions.

I THEREFORE MOVE, THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Declare January 30, 2013 through April 4, 2013 as the Season for Nonviolence in Los Angeles County and urge the public to reflect on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all practitioners of nonviolent direct action as an effective means of addressing injustice.

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